

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00
EB-08 COME-00 /090 W
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P 011408Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5543
INFO AMEMBASSY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IS, FR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON HAS GIVEN US AN ACCOUNT OF THE BACKGROUND OF THE VISIT TO ISRAEL BY FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD AND OF THE BILATERAL SUBJECTS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED. ALLON SAID THE EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS NOW BEEN IMPROVED, THAT AJOINT MINISTERIAL-LEVEL TRADE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, THAT HE HAS A GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH DE GUIRINGAUD, AND THAT THE IMPROVEMENT IN FRENCH/ISRAELI RELATIONS REFLECTS THE DESIRE OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE. END SUMMARY

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1. AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CRISIS BETWEEN FRANCE AND ISRAEL OVER ABU DAOUD IN JAN, DE GUIRINGAUD INDICATED QUIETLY TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN PARIS THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH ALLON WHEN THE LATTER WAS IN BRUSSELS TO SIGN THE PROTOCOL TO THE EC/ISRAELI AGREEMENT. THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE THIS AN OFFICIAL REQUEST,

BUT ALLON RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO MEET WITH HIM. THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE VISIT WERE HANDLED AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL AND THERE WAS NO LEAK TO THE PRESS REGARDING THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO MINISTERS.

2. ALLON CHARACTERIZED THAT CONVERSATION AS VERY FRANK AND COMPLETE; IT WAS A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE ABU DAOUD AFFAIR, AN ACTION OF WHICH ALLON SAID THE FRENCH WERE "ASHAMED." HE POINTED OUT TO THE FRENCH THAT THE CASE WAS THE RESULT OF FRANCE'S NEGATIVE POSTURE REGARDING ISRAEL, A POSTURE WHICH COULD ONLY DAMAGE FRANCE'S OWN INTERESTS. ALLON SAID HE BELIEVED HE CONVINCED DE GUIRINGAUD AT THAT TIME THAT HE SHOULD AT LEAST LISTEN TO ISRAELI VIEWS.

3. AT BRUSSELS, DE GUIRINGAUD AND ALLON DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE FORMER'S VISITING ISRAEL IN FEBRUARY BUT IT WAS AGREED THAT THAT WAS TOO EARLY AND ALLON SUGGESTED THAT IT BE POSTPONED TO THE END OF MARCH. DE GUIRINGAUD WAS NOT HAPPY TO WAIT THAT LONG, SINCE HE APPEARED TO BE BOWING TO ISRAELI WISHES, BUT ACCEPTED ALLON'S JUDGEMENT. ALLON SAID HE WAS GRATIFIED THAT PRESENT GISCARD HAD PERMITTED HIS FOREIGN MINISTER TO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL IN SPITE OF THIS WEEK'S CABINET CRISIS. HE SAID DE GUIRINGAUD DID NOT TRY TO PERSUADE HIM TO ACCEPT FRENCH VIEWS

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NOR TO ARGUE WITH ISRAELI VIEWS, ALTHOUGH HE DID EXPRESS FRENCH VIEWS IN STRONG TERMS.

4. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, DE GUIRINGAUD INVITED RABIN TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE AND PRESSED FOR A DATE IN JULY. RABIN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BUT LEFT THE DATE TO BE WORKED OUT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. DE GUIRINGAUD DELIVERED A LETTER FROM GISCARD TO PRESIDENT KATZIR DURING HIS CALL ON THE LATTER, WHICH CONTAINED AN INVITATION TO VISIT GISCARD AT THE ELYSEE IF HE AT ANY TIME IS TRANSITING PARIS. ALLON COMMENTED THE ISRAELIS CONSIDER THIS AN APOLOGY FOR HAVING DECLINED TO RECEIVE KATZIR OFFICIALLY LAST JULY WHEN HE WAS PLANNING TO BE IN PARIS TO PARTICIPATE IN A SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE. (THE TEXT OF THE GISCARD LETTER AND OF A PRESS

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P 011508Z PAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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RELEASE REGARDING DE GUIRINGAUD'S VISIT WILL BE
POUCHED).

5. DURING HIS BRUSSELS MEETING WITH DE GUIRINGAUD,
ALLON SAID THE TWO MINISTERS HAD DECIDED TO
ESTABLISH A JOINT TEAM TO REVIEW THEIR EXTRADITION
TREATY IN ORDER TO LEARN FROM MISTAKES DURING
THE ABU DAOUD AFFAIR. THAT TEAM HAS COMPLETED
ITS WORK AND HAS DRAWN UP A DRAFT WHICH SETS OUT
BETTER PROCEDURES FOR THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO FOLLOW.
THE FRENCH HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO GIVE THEIR
AGREEMENT TO THE DRAFT BECAUSE LAST WEEK'S CHANGE
OF GOVERNMENT RESULTED IN THE APPOINTMENT OF A
NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

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6. ANOTHER STEP TAKEN DURING THE VISIT THIS WEEK WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE FOR COMMERCE AND TRADE. THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ORGANIZED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ALTHOUGH SOME PREPARATORY WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE AT A LOWER LEVEL. THE TWO MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE ARAB BOYCOTT IN DETAIL AND THE NEW COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE THE SUBJECT FURTHER. DE GUIRINGAUD INFORMED ALLON OF LEGISLATION WHICH IS BEING CONSIDERED IN PARIS ON THIS SUBJECT AND ALLON COMMENTED HE WAS GLAD TO SEE PROGRESS IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND PARIS. DE GUIRINGAUD ARGUED THAT THE GOF HAD ACTUALLY INTERVENED IN BOYCOTT CASES TO HELP ISRAEL. ALLON TOLD US THAT HE HOPES THAT ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WILL PUSH TO ADOPT ANIT-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION; IF NOT ALL NINE, AT LEAST THE GERMANS, BRITISH AND FRENCH. HE SAID THAT ISRAEL IS RELYING ON THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH EUROPE, ADDING WITH A SMILE, "WE SOMETIMES DO BETTER WITH LEGISLATURES THAN WITH GOVERNMENTS."

7. ALLON SAID HE FELT HE HAD ESTABLISHED GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS NOW WITH DE GUIRINGAUD AND WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE LATTER SPOKE HIGHLY OF ISRAEL IN A PRIVATE BRIEFING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRENCH PRESS (SOME OF WHOM WERE ISRAELI STRINGERS). IN THAT MEETING DE GUIRINGAUD REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT ALLON WOULD FEEL AS MUCH AT HOME IN PARIS AS HE NOW DOES IN LONDON, THE HAGUE AND BONN; FOR EXAMPLE, HE HOPED THAT ALLON WOULD STOP IN PARIS ON HIS RETURN FROM THE NETHERLANDS. (ALLON SAID THIS REFERRED TO THE MEETING LATER THIS MONTH IN THE HAGUE OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. HE HAD URGED RABIN TO GO

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BUT THE PRIME MINISTER DOES NOT WISH TO AND TOLD ALLON TO GO INSTEAD. IF HE DOES, HE MAY INDEED STOP IN PARIS BECAUSE HE WANTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DE GUIRINGAUD'S DESIRE TO DEVELOP THEIR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP).

8. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM US, ALLON SAID HE DID NOT SENSE THAT THIS IMPROVEMENT IN FRENCH-ISRAELI RELATIONS STEMS ENTIRELY FROM DOMESTIC ELECTORAL REASONS BUT HE DOES SEE IT AS A REFLECTION OF THE WISH OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE FOR BETTER RELATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED

THAT FRANCE HAS THE SECOND LARGEST JEWISH
COMMUNITY (AFTER THE U.S.) IN THE WEST AND THAT
MANY MEMBERS OF THAT COMMUNITY ARE EXTREMELY
INFLUENTIAL IN GOVERNMENT AND ACADEMIC CIRCLES.
IN ADDITION, MANY GENTILES IN FRANCE ARE KNOWN TO
BE SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS,
HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES THE IMPROVEMENT IS BEST
ATTRIBUTED TO THE GROWING RECOGNITION THAT
NOTHING HAS BEEN GAINED BY THEIR ONE SIDED POLICY
FAVORING THE ARABS.

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Message Attributes

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